



**Northgate Community center and Park
PAT Meeting #9
Feb. 19, 2004
Meeting Notes**

PAT Members Present: Shawn Olesen, Barbara Maxwell, Marilyn Firlotte, Velva Maye, Jeanne Hayden, Frank Lufkin, William Lowe

PAT Members Not Present: LeAnne Hendrix-Barer, John Cash, Michelle Rupp, Sue Geving

Staff Present: Tim Motzer, Parks Project Manager; Maureen A. O'Neill, NE Parks and Recreation Manager; Joelle Ligon, Public Relations Specialist

Designers Present: Bob Hull, Architect from Miller | Hull; Kurt Stolle, Project Manager for Miller | Hull; Mark Brand, Site Workshop; Jack Johnson, Site Workshop.

6:05 p.m. Welcome

- Tim welcomed everyone, and reviewed the meeting objectives, which included reaching consensus on the 100% design documents.
- There were no changes to the agenda. There were a couple of changes to the Jan. 26 Meeting Notes that Maureen O'Neill requested. Those changes are reflected on the current version of the notes.

6:07 p.m. Comments from Visitors

- There were no visitors.

6:08 p.m. Discussion from previous week's PAT e-mail exchange

- There were no e-mails for discussion.

6:09 p.m. 100% Design Development Presentation

- There are currently two places being considered for the Metro Transit bus stop. One would be just south of the Library; one would be just north of the whole site. Miller | Hull indicated that the Design Commission has recommended the first location.
- Tim indicated that Parks had a meeting with City Light on Feb. 20 to discuss the possibility of undergrounding the utilities on site. From this initial meeting, it appears that this prospect is a very expensive one and that it doesn't look like there's money to accomplish it. However, Parks is researching other options and will get a handle on the price. Once this is established, Parks should have a better idea of how best to proceed. Tim indicated that we could look at many

different options. The existing utilities are comprised of two types of poles -- the regular power poles, and the transmission poles, which are quite tall. One PAT member wondered if it would be possible to hide or disguise the poles. Miller | Hull said they would do a drawing that had an overlay of the poles so that the visual impact of the poles would be evident.

- Miller | Hull indicated that there were three issues that the PAT pointed out last time that needed to be addressed.
 - Vending machines – The vending machines have now been placed right outside the bathrooms south of the gym. Previously there had been no space allocated for these. (This is the former location of the telephones. The telephones have now been moved.)
 - Brochures – A brochure rack has now been designed to go outside the Multi-Purpose Room. Previously, there had been no space allocated for this.
 - Operable windows – The PAT requested that there be more operable windows on the west-facing side of the community center. Miller | Hull doubled the number of windows on that side. There are now 2 operable windows per room, and they vary in size from 3'x3' to 3'x5'.
- To reiterate: there will be a planting strip on 5th Avenue NE. SDOT is looking at ways to increase the size currently being proposed. SDOT has safety concerns about people jay-walking across 5th Avenue, which is an extremely busy street.
- Site Workshop reviewed play equipment and furnishings with the group in order to discuss options and preferences.
 - Furnishings: these include benches, bollards, trash receptacles and drinking fountains.
 - The options are either metal or wood. Both products are made locally.
 - The goal is to make them fit in with the look and feel of the building.
 - Site Workshop indicated that Parks' standard is to NOT light playgrounds.
 - Tim indicated that we will also be installing ornamental street lights.
 - The lighting criteria to consider are the color of the light (white or yellow); the ease of maintenance and longevity of the product. Site Workshop has a lighting engineer who will be analyzing the best

lighting for the site. Maureen suggested that we look at lighting issues long term. For instance, after 20 years, the trees will grow in and the lighting needs may be different. Site Workshop indicated that while bollard lighting may provide a nice source of light, it was more expensive. Tim also added that there are maintenance issues with bollard lighting. The lighting on the street will be the standard-issue SDOT “cobra” lights, named for their snake-like curl. These will be 80 to 100 feet on center and staggered. Pedestrian lights on site are 12 feet high and create more “humane” light than their street counterparts. The bus stop will definitely be lit. This is a Metro Transit standard practice.

- Site Workshop is researching ways to make the seating wall more friendly to passive users and less friendly to skateboarders. Possible options include indentions in the edge of the wall, instead of metal brackets attached to the wall. Also the wall has a slight canter at the base to make it more comfortable for sitting.
 - The PAT and Site Workshop agreed that metal would be a preferred alternative to wood because of ease and lower cost of maintenance, uniformity with the materials chosen for the building and greater comfort. (While metal is hotter than wood in the summer time, it dries faster after a rain event.)
 - There was discussion about benches with or without backs. The consensus was that we should use a combination of them, depending on the placement of the bench.
- Playground: Parks urged PAT members to go look at playgrounds at Bitter Lake Community Center, Miller Community Center, and Wallingford, Greenwood and View Ridge Parks.
 - The playground services youngsters from 2 – 12 years old. Within that, there are two sub-categories of age appropriate equipment: 2 – 5 years old; and 5 – 12 years old.
 - There will be one swing set with four bays: two for tots with handicapped accessibility and 2 bays with strap seats. The swing set is 8 feet high, which is the new standard. The old 12-foot high swings are no longer installed in Seattle Parks. Swing sets tend to

be the most popular of the playground equipment because both kids and adults enjoy them.

- There will be a smattering of spring toys, a merry-go-round and other toys that fit in between.
- The toys are all combined, except that the swing set is set apart from the 2 – 5 year old toys. Little, little kids don't necessarily pay attention to swings, whereas older kids would be aware enough of their surroundings to stay out of the way.
- All the toys are composite play structures. They are either plastic-metal; wood-metal; wood; or metal. There are four basic manufacturers. The playground design will be based on space and budget constraints. All the components are modular. Parks and Site Workshop encouraged PAT members to ask the children in their lives what they like.
- There are many colors and themes available. Site Workshop presented four possible options from four vendors and gave catalogs to the PAT to take a look at what is available. It is also possible to mix and match from each of the different vendors.
- Regarding color: Maureen suggested that we stick to two colors in order to make it more sophisticated looking. In addition, one of the PAT members suggested that we keep with the same colors as Nikki McClure's art project.
- The PAT encouraged the use of complex structures because children tend to like those better. "Kids want things that challenge them."
- There was a general discussion about what type of composite was most desirable. Several members said they liked the wood, but at least one member voiced concerns about the chemicals that the wood is treated with. Site Workshop indicated that health concerns about the wood came from the fact that wood play equipment used to be treated with arsenic. It is no longer treated with that chemical. Some felt that the plastic option was too cheap or gaudy looking.
- Ultimately, it was decided that the PAT and Site Workshop would do more research, check with what the child care providers within

Parks liked and would work toward making more definite decision in April at our next PAT meeting.

7:30 p.m Wrap up

- We will have a regular PAT public meeting on **Monday, April 19, 7 – 9 p.m.**

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